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(54) Title: TRIACYLGLYCEROL-DEFICIENT FISSION YEAST AND ITS USES

(57) Abstract: A fission yeast having non-functional *dgat* and *plhl* genes, which is incapable of synthesizing triacylglycerols, is disclosed. The fission yeast is susceptible to lipotoxicity including lipopoptosis, and is useful for screening of compounds that inhibit or prevent lipotoxicity or lipopoptosis. The fission yeast strain may be transformed to express a mammalian enzyme involved in triacylglycerol synthesis, and therefore is also useful for screening of compounds that inhibit or prevent triacylglycerol synthesis, which activity is conferred by the mammalian enzyme.

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